

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission

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ITEM

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DECISION

TOPIC

Chapter 61, State Parks and Recreation Areas - Notice of Intended Action

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The Departments requests Commission approval for publication of a Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 61 “State Parks and Recreation Areas”. These amendments make several changes to the rule. First, it updates the definition of “immediately family” to also include spouses and legal guardians. Secondly, it limits the number of persons allowed on campsite to be no more than six with two exceptions: one exception is for designated chaperoned organized youth group campsites, and the other exception is for families who exceed six persons, are all members of an immediate family, and cannot logically be split to occupy two campsites. The final amendment removes the requirement that the occupants of an approved second tent on a campsite must be under the age of 18 and dependent members of the immediate family occupying the basic unit. This last change will, for example, allow individuals such as a husband and wife to sleep in two small separate tents on the same campsite, and allow unrelated campers with six or fewer people, such as a school club or friends, to have an approved second tent on a campsite. These changes are a result of inquiries from the public and a legislator about occupancy of campsites and who is allowed to have an approved second tent on a campsite.

Kevin Szcodronski, Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
February 11, 2010

Attachment(s): NOIA Chapter 61 “State Parks and Recreation Areas”

**NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]**

**Notice of Intended Action**

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code Section 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 61, “State Parks and Recreation Areas,” Iowa Administrative Code.

These following amendments are proposed.

1. Update the definition of “immediately family” to also include spouses and legal guardians.
2. Limit the number of persons allowed on a campsite to be no more than six with two exceptions: (1) designated chaperoned organized youth group campsites; and (2) families who exceed six persons, are all members of an immediate family, and cannot logically be split to occupy two campsites.

3. Remove the requirement that the occupants of an approved second tent on a campsite must be under the age of 18 and dependent members of the immediate family occupying the basic unit. This last change will, for example, allow individuals such as a husband and wife to sleep in two small separate tents on the same campsite, and allow unrelated campers with six or fewer people, such as a school club or friends, to have an approved second tent on a campsite.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on the proposed amendment on or before March 30, 2010. Such written material should be directed to the Sherry Arntzen, State Parks Bureau, Department of Natural Resources, 502 East Ninth Street, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034. Comments may be sent by fax to (515)281-6794 or by E-mail to [Sherry.Arntzen@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Sherry.Arntzen@dnr.iowa.gov). Persons who wish to convey their views orally should contact Mrs. Arntzen at (515)242-6233.

There will be a public hearing on March 30, 2010, at 2 p.m. in the Fourth Floor East Conference Room in the Wallace State Office Building, at which time persons may present their views orally or in writing. At the hearing, persons will be asked to give their names and addresses for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of the amendments.

Any persons who intend to attend a public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department of Natural Resource to discuss further.

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code Sections 461A.3, 461A.48 and 461A.57.

The following amendments are proposed.

**ITEM 1.** Amend rule 571—61.2(461A), definition of “Immediate family,” as follows:

“Immediate family” means spouses, parents or legal guardians, dependent children, and grandparents.

**ITEM 2.** Rescind subrule 61.4(5) and adopt the following new subrule in lieu thereof:

**61.4(5) Restrictions on campsite/campground use.** This subrule sets forth conditions of public use which apply to all state parks and recreation areas. Specific areas as listed in 61.4(6), 61.7(461A) and 61.10(461A) are subject to additional restrictions or exceptions. The conditions in this subrule are in addition to specific conditions and restrictions set forth in Iowa Code chapter 461A.

*a.* Camping is restricted to designated camping areas within state parks and recreation areas and state forest campgrounds.

*b.* No more than six persons shall occupy a campsite except for the following:

(1) Families that exceed six persons may be allowed on one campsite if all members are immediate family and cannot logically be split to occupy two campsites.

(2) Campsites which are designated as chaperoned organized youth group campsites.

*c.* Camping is restricted to one basic unit per site except that a small tent may be placed on a site with the basic unit. The area occupied by the small tent shall be no more than 8 feet by 10 feet and the tent shall hold no more than four people.

*d.* Each camping group shall utilize only the electrical outlet fixture designated for its particular campsite. No extension cords or other means of hookup shall be used to furnish electricity from one designated campsite to another.

*e.* Each camping group will be permitted to park one motor vehicle not being used for camping purposes at the campsite. Unless otherwise posted, one additional vehicle may be parked at the campsite.

*f.* All motor vehicles, excluding motorcycles, not covered by the provision in 61.4(5)“e” shall be parked in designated extra-vehicle parking areas.

*g.* Walk-in campers occupying nonreservable campsites or unrented, reservable campsites shall register as provided in subrule 61.4(3) within one-half hour of entering the campground.

*h.* Campers occupying nonreservable campsites shall vacate the campground or register for the night prior to 4 p.m. daily. Registration can be for more than 1 night at a time but not for more than 14 consecutive nights for nonreservable campsites. All members of the camping party must vacate the state park or recreation area campground after the fourteenth night and may not return to the state park or recreation area until a minimum of 3 nights has passed. All equipment must be removed from the site at the end of each stay. The 14-night limitation shall not apply to volunteers working under a department of natural resources program.

*i.* Walk-in campers shall not occupy unrented, reservable campsites until 10 a.m. on the first camping day of their stay. Campers shall vacate the campground by 3 p.m. of the last day of their stay. Initial registration shall not exceed two nights. Campers may continue to register after the first two nights on a night-to-night basis up to a maximum of 14 consecutive nights, subject to campsite availability. All members of the camping party must vacate the state park or recreation area campground after the fourteenth night and may not return to the state park or recreation area until a minimum of 3 nights has passed. All equipment must be removed from the site at the end of each stay. The 14-night limitation shall not apply to volunteers working under a department of natural resources program.

*j.* Campers with reservations shall not occupy a campsite before 4 p.m. of the first day of their stay. Campers shall vacate the site by 3 p.m. of the last day of their stay. Campers may register for more than 1 night at a time but not for more than 14 consecutive nights. All members of the camping party must vacate the state park or recreation area campground after the fourteenth night and may not return to the state park or recreation area until a minimum of 3 nights has passed. All equipment must be removed from the site at the end of each stay. The 14-night limitation shall not apply to volunteers working under a department of natural resources program.

*k.* Campsites marked with the international symbol of accessibility shall be used only by vehicles displaying a persons with disabilities parking permit. The vehicle must be in use by a person with a disability, either as an operator or a passenger.

*l.* In designated campgrounds, equine animals and llamas must be stabled at a hitching rail, individual stall or corral if provided. Equine animals and llamas may be hitched to trailers for short periods of time to allow for grooming and saddling. These animals may be stabled inside trailers where no hitching facilities are provided. Portable stalls/pens and electric fences are not permitted.

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Date

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Richard A. Leopold, Director